

**IEEE CINCINNATI
SECTION
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2004**



OCTOBER MEETING

At press time, details of the October 28, 2004 Section Meeting were still being finalized. Please check the Section Web Page (<http://ieee.cincinnati.fuse.net/>) or call the Section Voice Mail (513-629-9380) for information.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING E-MAILS FROM "IEEE"

The IEEE has learned that IEEE email alias users may have received messages that appear to be from a legitimate IEEE source claiming that their email address will be disabled. In these messages are password-protected attachments that contain viruses. A numeric password is included. These emails are NOT from the IEEE; the sender's address has been spoofed to fool recipients. Please DO NOT OPEN these attachments. Please DELETE the messages. The IEEE does not send email messages to members containing passwords.

In the future, if you receive a message that appears to be from an IEEE email alias with an attachment and password instructions, it is not from the IEEE.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Fred Nadeau, Section Chair

Our September Section meeting topic on Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) was extremely successful. BPL is basically the data transmission over power lines allowing the use of PCs to be used at any power receptacle in residential homes and/or businesses. The joint venture of Cinergy and Current technologies is providing this service to the Cincinnati area and plans are to cover the entire Cinergy area using the existing electricity distribution infrastructure. The venture will viably compete with cable and phone dial-up services. Our special thanks to Mr. Jim Mollenkopf, Current Technologies, for an outstanding presentation. Mr. Mollenkopf told me he likes a participative audience, and he received from our section members exactly what he asked for, a deluge of technical questions.

We hope to continue to have a host of such meetings for you throughout the year. Tell all your colleagues to come and join us at the next section meeting.

Fred Nadeau, Section Chair
E-mail: f.nadeau@ieee.org
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NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals are IEEE members who are new to our Section:

Viktorija Cecil	Andrew B. Huizenga
Daniel C. Cliburn	Mukund Raghavan
Edward P. Cummings	Richard R. Recetti
Tim Dunfee	Mark C. Rego
Manjari Ganti	Geoff Schardein
Raj K. Gupta	Owen Schelenz
Bruce J. Hart	Christopher A. Siebert
Stephen D. Herman	Clifford M. Stone
G. M. Hickman	

We wish to welcome these new members to our Section!!!

Hall of Fame - The "Forgotten Father of the Computer": Born 100 Years Ago

Reprinted with permission from the IEEE publication, "IEEE-USA News & Views" December 2003.

Submitted by Dick Reiman, Historian

John Vincent Atanasoff was the first man to construct an electronic digital computer, in the heart of the Corn-Belt --Ames, Iowa. In a biography, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Clark Mollenhoff called him the "forgotten father of the computer."

Born in 1903, just outside Hamilton, N. Y., Atanasoff exhibited an early ability in mathematics. By age 10, he was familiar with the operations and logarithmic principles of the slide rule, learned the principles of different number systems like binary, and had even started reading a textbook on college algebra. He also exhibited a hands-on talent for electrical technology. Both parents fostered their son's deep curiosity and love of mathematics and technology. His Bulgarian father, Ivan, was a self-taught electrical engineer. And his mother, Iva, taught mathematics.

From 1930 to 1936, while a professor at Iowa State, Atanasoff grappled with the issue of faster computational tools for physicists. He carefully studied state-of-the-art mechanical desk calculators, IBM's punch card tabulators and analog computers. Although he had studied electrical engineering as an undergraduate, Atanasoff decided to teach himself more about electronics while working on faster computation devices. He delved into the theory and use of vacuum tubes. This intellectual digression proved a turning point: in 1936, Atanasoff concluded that using pulse electronic techniques was the solution to faster computational devices. By 1938, Atanasoff had a working prototype.

World War II ended Atanasoff's pioneering work in computer technology, but he remained a keen and interested observer. To his dismay, he learned in the late 1940s that John Mauchly and Presper Eckert held key patents to the ENIAC computer. Atanasoff was shocked to learn that Iowa State's lawyers had never filed the patents for the groundbreaking work he and partner Clifford Berry had done. The similarity of the ENIAC patent claims to the device that he had built nearly six years earlier was striking. To add insult to injury, Mauchly had been a guest in Atanasoff's home and had spent several days at Iowa State closely studying the details of the Atanasoff-Berry computer long before he conceived the ENIAC concept. The ENIAC project never referred to Atanasoff and Berry. While the world recognized Mauchly and Eckert as the fathers of the digital electronics computer, Atanasoff remained silent, hoping that some day his role in creating the electronic digital computer would become known. But did it?

IEEE NEWS

IEEE Seeks EWeek New Faces of Engineering Nominees

WASHINGTON (1 September 2004) - The IEEE is seeking nominees for the New Faces of Engineering to showcase during Engineers Week (EWeek) 2005. The New Faces program highlights the vitality, diversity and rich contributions of the world's young engineers.

Nominees must hold an engineering degree, be employed as an engineer from two to five years, and have worked with projects that significantly affect public welfare or further professional development and growth. The focus is on engineers 30 and under. Nomination forms are available at http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2005_Nominations.shtml.

Five IEEE members, including two from outside the United States, will be chosen by an ad hoc committee to represent the IEEE and will be featured on the EWeek Web site (www.eweek.org). The top nominee from each EWeek sponsoring society will appear in USA Today during EWeek 2005, 20-26 February. You can view last year's honorees at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2004/index.shtml>.

IEEE nominees should be submitted to Helen Hall at h.hall@ieee.org by Friday 1 October 2004.

EWeek is sponsored by more than 100 engineering, scientific and education societies, and major corporations dedicated to increasing public awareness and appreciation of engineering. It is celebrated annually by thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers and leaders in government and business. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers and BP p.l.c are co-chairs of EWeek 2005. The IEEE and the Fluor Corporation of Aliso Viejo, Calif., served as 2004 chairs.

From Washington, D.C.: IEEE-USA NEWS & VIEWS E-MAIL ALERT for 31 August 2004

IEEE Member E-mail Alert on "Building Careers & Shaping Public Policy" - <http://www.ieeeusa.org>
IN THIS ISSUE:

- THIS MONTH'S "IEEE-USA TODAY'S ENGINEER" WEBZINE COVERS OFFSHORE OUTSOURCING, ETHICS, TECH EDUCATION FOR KIDS

Also for a "World Bytes" column on at-will employment, part two of the "Engineering in Pop Culture" feature on the Straphanger Centennial, and a "Backscatter" column on picking a winner, read the latest edition of "IEEE-USA Today's Engineer" online at: <http://www.todaysengineer.org>

- IEEE-USA TO PRESENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR GLOBAL TECHNICAL WORK FORCE

IEEE-USA's Employment & Career Services Committee will partner with GSPx Technical Conference to offer an all-day, professional development workshop in Santa Clara, Calif., on 28 September, at "The International Embedded Solutions Event." The conference is designed for engineers, developers, project managers and all other job functions involved with the technical aspects of intelligent design.

For details, go to: <http://www.gspx.com/GSPX/developer.php>

- NSPE, IEEE-USA TO SPONSOR ONLINE SEMINAR ON OFFSHORE OUTSOURCING

NSPE and IEEE-USA will join forces to present an online seminar on "Outsourcing and the U.S. Engineering Community," on 22 September, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. This seminar will help you understand the policy implications of this issue, and how it could affect your career.

To learn more, or sign-up, visit: <http://www.nspe.org/education>

- IEEE-USA ALLIANCE OF IEEE CONSULTANTS NETWORKS TO HOLD CONSULTING WORKSHOP AT WESCON, 22 SEPTEMBER

IEEE-USA's Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks (AICN) is offering a consulting workshop at WESCON on 22 September in Anaheim, Calif. With former AICN Chair Ralph Hileman at the helm, topics will include "Introduction to Consulting" and "Holographic Living: Integrating Technical Consulting with the Rest of Your Life."

For more information, visit: <http://www.wescon.com/W2004/pages/conference.htm>

- SHARE YOUR STORY ABOUT AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN ENGINEER

The IEEE was invited to participate in the Extraordinary Women in Engineering Project (EWEP), an ambitious educational initiative to inspire more young women to choose -- and remain in -- engineering. The first phase of the project involves publishing a book on "Engineering Women: Extraordinary Stories of How They Changed Our World." If you would like to submit a story after the 1 September deadline, please send it to info@engineeringwoman.org, as soon as possible.

For more details about EWEP, go to: <http://www.engineeringwomen.org/index.cfm>

**Students Like Building Future Cities, Plan to Continue Studying Science,
Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

WASHINGTON (7 September 2004) -- The National Engineers Week Future City Competition, in which seventh- and eighth-grade students develop models and descriptions of how people might one day live, is viewed as an enjoyable learning experience by both students and teachers, according to a study commissioned by IEEE-USA. And more than half of the students said they planned to study science, technology, engineering or mathematics in high school and college. The survey of 190 students and teachers from the 1,100 participating schools was performed by The Response Center of Fort Washington, Pa.

Overall, 82 percent of students and all teachers gave the contest an "A" or "B" on a five-point scale. Both groups gave high marks to steps such as designing the city and building a physical model, as well as going to competitions. Students also felt that participation helped them think creatively and improved their communication skills.

"We commissioned this study to assist the Future City Competition in its development efforts," said Joseph V. Lillie, an IEEE member who served as 2004 National Engineers Week Chair. "The research will be very useful as we move forward with improvements to the competition and expand into new areas of the country."

Now in its 13th year, the Future City Competition (www.futurecity.org) was introduced by IEEE-USA with the EWeek committee in 1992-93. It reaches more than 30,000 students in 37 regions of the United States, and is run annually in conjunction with Engineers Week each February.

The four-part, multi-disciplinary competition asks students to create a future city by employing critical thinking, teamwork, research and problem-solving skills. Their solution is a city designed using SimCity software, a table-top scale city model using recycled materials, a 700-word essay on a specific engineering topic, and a seven-minute team verbal presentation defending their vision before a panel of judges.

The survey further revealed that more than two-thirds of seventh graders and 20 of the 22 teachers plan to participate next year, while 80 percent of the students would recommend the program to friends. Even though the participants enjoy competing in the annual contest, most only participate one of the two years they're eligible. Though teachers enjoy the contest, most are only involved a year or two.

Although students enjoy the project, few appreciated the paperwork. Writing the essay describing their city got an "A" or "B" from little more than half the students.

According to Lillie, a member of the Future City Advisory Board, "this study gives the competition's leadership documented evidence of the Future City Competition's value."

Report on news around the IEEE, from the editors of The Institute. The current version of The Institute can always be found at <http://www.ieee.org/theinstitute>

- From Outsourcing to Plagiarism: The Candidates for President-Elect Respond: The candidates for 2005 IEEE President-Elect -- Michael R. Lightner, Levent Onural, and James M. Tien -- presented their views on issues critical to members at the 16th Annual Candidates Night, hosted by the Philadelphia Section in June. The three are on this year's election ballot. Read what they had to say at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2201&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.candi.xml
- What You Need to Know for This Year's Election: Begin by looking for the Annual Election ballot in your mailbox this month. In addition to the three candidates in the race for 2005 IEEE President-Elect, 40 others are running in 16 contests held in the IEEE's various divisions and regions. Plus you have to vote on an amendment to the IEEE Constitution, which is included with the ballot and other election materials. Highlights of the revisions to the constitution are at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2202&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.namend.xml
- Standing Up for a Better E-Ballot Box: It won't be ready for this year's U.S. presidential election. It could be ready before the next one, four years hence. We're talking about an IEEE standard that specifies the performance requirements of electronic voting machines. Find out more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2201&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.fballot.xml
- Marketplace of Ideas: Is E-Voting Ready for Prime Time? Several countries use electronic voting machines, but the technology has been plagued, at least in the United States, by questions of accuracy and security fears. What must be done before e-voting is safe, secure, and reliable? Weigh in at institute@ieee.org
- Offering Consultants a Helping Hand: For members turning to consulting for a living, the IEEE offers a host of products and services to help them run their businesses. Perhaps most useful are the IEEE Consultants' Networks where consultant-engineers can meet and discuss the trials and tribulations that many in one-person operations would otherwise face on their own. The networks also organize

educational programs and that prerequisite of so many successful careers--networking opportunities. Find out more at

http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1010&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.prodserv.xml

- In the Mood for Moog: He's collaborated with musical greats like Stevie Wonder, Mick Jagger, and Chick Corea, but for IEEE Life Member Bob Moog, his 50-year career in electronic musical instruments is all just an extension of work he did while tinkering as a kid in the basement of his New York City home. Read more about Moog at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1016&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.mempro.xml
- Fleming Valve Is Newest IEEE Milestone: A century ago, John Ambrose Fleming ushered in the electronic age with the invention of his diode valve, a vacuum tube that allowed electrical current to flow in one direction, but not the other. IEEE President Arthur Winston in July presented University College London--where Fleming had been a professor of electrical engineering--with an IEEE Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing, commemorating Fleming's diode. Find out more about Fleming's work at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1008&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.histmile.xml
- Dan Senese to Retire: At the end of the year, IEEE executive director Daniel Senese will retire. For the past nine years, Senese has been responsible for overseeing all operations of the IEEE. His last day will be 31 December. Read more at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2202&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.newssenese.xml
- Getting a Handle on Hydrogen: Is hydrogen, and a hydrogen economy, the answer to air pollution and the world's dwindling reserves of fossil fuels? The industrialized countries are committing billions of dollars to find out, which is why four IEEE societies have united to help policymakers with accurate, objective information about the technology in the hope that they will be better equipped to make sound decisions. Find out more at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2201&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.fhydro.xml
- Companies Play New Role in Standards Development: When a new IEEE standard for rechargeable batteries was announced in April, few people realized it represented a new way of doing things. For the first time, the IEEE Standards Association had opened its standards development process to include formal participation by companies, instead of by individuals alone. Find out why at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2202&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.stand.xml
- Two New IEEE Journals Debut in 2005: Next year two new publications will be introduced that focus on emerging technologies: IEEE Journal of Display Technology and IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics. Find out more at
http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1010&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.newjournals.xml
- Seeking Student-Run Web Radio Stations: If your university has a student-run Web radio station, IEEE Spectrum wants to hear from you. Contact Editor Susan Hassler at s.hassler@ieee.org

- IEEE Members Receive Discount on TECHXNY Registration: IEEE members who register for the TECHXNY conference, to be held 5-7 October 2004 in New York City, will receive a 15 percent discount on registration. TECHXNY covers business technology subjects, including computer security and networking systems. Register at <http://www.techxny.com/registration.cfm> and use the promotional code "agthwl".
- Water, Water Everywhere at Conference: Technical and social issues share the spotlight this year in Kobe, Japan, where the Oceans and Techno-Ocean 2004 conferences will be held together from 9 to 12 November at the Kobe Convention Center. Whether the subject is optical sensors or underwater vehicles, coastal management or Earth observations, participants will enjoy a strong undercurrent of international cooperation and interdisciplinary research. Learn more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2203&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/sep04/9w.conf.xml
- New Proceedings Cover Latest Research in Parallel and Distributed Systems: The proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems are now available. Finite state processes, spatial data, database resource binding, and heterogeneous computing environments were just some of the research topics presented. To purchase, visit ShopIEEE at <http://shop.ieee.org/store/product.asp?prodno=PR2152>
- IEEE Helps Build Computer Center for Nigerian University: Funding from the IEEE and Hewlett-Packard Co. will turn a concrete-block building without electricity into a state-of-the-art computer center at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, the first such university center in the West African country of 130 million people. Learn more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2201&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.fnigeria.xml
- New Book Explores Life After Engineering School: "In school, you learn the science and apply the equations," says IEEE author Carl Selinger. "But there's plenty more to a successful engineering career than that." Selinger's new book, *Stuff You Don't Learn in Engineering School: Skills for Success in the Real World* is meant as a guide to all the rest--the nontechnical, real-world skills that engineers need to better manage their lives and careers. Find out more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1010&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.prodbook.xml
- IEEE Engages in "History-Making" Intersociety Cooperation: What began almost a decade ago as a promise to hold regular meetings has flourished into a close intersociety collaboration -- perhaps the first of its kind between historians at opposite ends of the globe -- to record the contributions made throughout the world to electrical technology. Find out more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1008&article=tionline/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.historyjapan.xml
- Marketplace of Ideas: Is Being "Always On" a Good Thing? Business travelers on flights will soon be able to log onto their office computer networks, and technology may soon allow cellphones to be used onboard as well. Do you think 24/7 connection would be good or not? Would it improve workers' productivity? Weigh in at <mailto:institute@ieee.org>

- Time to Renew Your 2005 Membership: Renewal notices for the 2005 membership year are in the mail, and the 2005 Online Renewal site is now open at <http://www.ieee.org/renewal>. Find out about new changes to the renewal process at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2202&article=online/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.newsrenew.xml
- Shipping Service Merges With Larger Carrier: Airborne Express, the vendor for the IEEE's discount shipping program, has been absorbed by its larger competitor, DHL. Through the enlarged company, IEEE members now have access to more domestic and international services for air freight, ocean and rail cargo, and shipments to warehouses. Learn more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=1006&article=online/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.fap.xml
- Magazines Win Eight Editorial and Design Awards: Three IEEE magazines recently won awards for their editorial content and design. IEEE Spectrum received six awards, while IEEE Power and Energy and IEEE Control Systems received one each. Read more at http://www.theinstitute.ieee.org/portal/index.jsp?pageID=institute_level1_article&TheCat=2202&article=online/legacy/inst2004/oct04/10w.newspub.xml

IEEE-USA Urges Congress to End Patent Application Fee Diversion

WASHINGTON (16 September 2004) -- Congress should not pass an increase in patent application fees without ending the diversion of fees from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to other government programs, IEEE-USA President-Elect Gerard A. Alphonse said in a letter to Senate Commerce-State-Justice Appropriations Committee members and Senate leaders Wednesday.

Although the USPTO is funded solely by user fees, since 1990 a portion of the fees has been diverted to the U.S. Treasury. According to IEEE-USA, this diversion of fees reduces the patent office's income and hinders its ability to keep up with the growing number of patent and trademark applications it receives each year. Delays in the issuance of patent and trademark registrations could have enormous economic impact.

"The patent and trademark system serves to reduce the risks of commercial ventures and provides a business tool that helps U.S. corporations compete in the global market," Alphonse said. "The need for U.S. companies to protect intellectual property also creates an incentive for these companies to keep highly skilled technical professionals close to home, rather than shipping their jobs overseas."

A significant reason the United States has been a magnet for new technology ventures is the overall strength of the U.S. patent system. The USPTO receives far more foreign applications than foreign patent offices receive U.S. applications.

"Discontinuing fee diversion will help the U.S. patent system to remain the leader and will enhance our ability to attract new technology ventures to the United States," IEEE-USA's Alphonse added. "This will have a positive effect on capital formation for such ventures in the United States, which in turn will help create new high-paying jobs."

**Nobel Laureate in Economics, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman to Address 28-29
October Conference on "Ethics and Changing Energy Markets:
Issues for Engineers, Managers and Regulators"**

Organized by University of Notre Dame and Carnegie Mellon University
Sponsored by IEEE-USA, IEEE Power Engineering Society, ASCE and NSPE

WHAT: The conference will explore the interplay of ethical, market and regulatory issues arising in the shift from regulated to competitive markets in the electric and gas utility industries. News events involving energy markets, such as the California crisis and the Enron corporate disaster, have shaken public confidence in deregulated systems. Decisions of questionable ethical basis may have helped precipitate some of these calamities; adherence to high standards of ethics will be essential in restoring confidence in the markets. The origins of these problems and best practices to avoid their repetition will be explored. Participants will debate the identification and resolution of ethical problems faced by energy industry participants -- from plant engineers to CFOs and CEOs.

WHEN: Thursday-Friday, 28-29 October 2004

WHERE: University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

WHO: Plenary speakers on Thursday, 28 October, include: Vernon Smith, Nobel Laureate in Economics and professor of economics and law, George Mason University, who will present the keynote; William Henderson, Director Office of Market Oversight and Investigations, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, who will discuss "Energy Market Restructuring and Its Ethical Challenges"; Caroline Whitbeck, professor in ethics, Case Western Reserve University, who will speak on "Engineering Ethics"; and James Sweeney, professor of management science and engineering, Stanford University, who will address "The California Energy Crisis." A panel discussion on case studies and breakout sessions on specific energy issues will be convened on Thursday afternoon. Bethany McLean, of Fortune magazine and author of "The Smartest Guys in the Room," will be the dinner speaker on Thursday evening.

Friday sessions will cover: "What Should Professional Societies Do?," with IEEE Power Engineering Society President Hans Puttgen; and "What Educators Should Do?" with Indira Nair, vice provost for education at Carnegie Mellon University; "Lessons from the Recent Past -- Best Practices Development," with Michehl Gent, president and CEO of the North American Reliability Council; and "Next Steps, Private and Public," with Frank Incropera, dean of engineering at Notre Dame. The Honorable Pat Wood III, chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, will be the luncheon speaker on Friday, 29 October.

CONTACT: For more information and to register, go to <http://energyethics2004.nd.edu/>, or contact Roberta White, telephone (574) 631-8264.

"IEEE-USA Today's Engineer" Online Update
<http://www.todaysengineer.org>

"IEEE-USA Today's Engineer" has been updated with new content, including:

- Is Your Pension Safe? ERISA established the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) to pay benefits to defined-benefit pension plan participants when their employers cannot. While PBGC has sufficient assets to pay benefits for several years, the organization's deficit continues to grow as it pays out larger and larger claims. It behooves us to make fundamental changes to the defined benefit system now, before PBGC's deficit reaches a crisis point. <http://www.todaysengineer.org/Oct04/pensions.asp>

- Ethics: A Responsibility for Us All. Being aware of, understanding and adhering to IEEE's Code of Ethics is more important than ever in today's workplace. Ethics is an essential component of our continuing development as engineering professionals. It is a life-long process that must be part of our daily routines. <http://www.todaysengineer.org/Oct04/ethics.asp>
- How Big a Threat is Offshoring? More and more, companies hoping to improve their bottom line are taking advantage of lower labor costs offshore. In fact, high-tech job outsourcing has become a staple in today's corporate environment. How much do they really gain, and what effect is this trend having on engineers and other high-tech professionals? <http://www.todaysengineer.org/Oct04/offshoring.asp>
- Software Piracy: A Cause for Concern Onshore and Off. Software piracy in this country is relatively uncomplicated; companies and consumers simply load a few more copies of programs than they paid for. And while this onshore piracy adds up to significant lost revenue, larger-scale piracy occurring overseas concerns software producers far more. <http://www.todaysengineer.org/Oct04/piracy.asp>
- IEEE-USA Pulse: Visa Delays. Delays in the visa process affect companies financially. IEEE-USA president John Steadman joined other organization leaders in urging the federal government to streamline the current visa application process by alleviating repetitive security checks, improving the renewal process and establishing priority processing for some applications. <http://www.todaysengineer.org/Oct04/pulse.asp>

Also in this issue:

- Engineering in Pop Culture: Straphanger Centennial Part III
- Capitol Shavings: The Hubble is in Trouble
- World Bytes: My Personal Everest
- Book Review: Leonardo's Laptop
- Reader Poll: Is Innovation the Answer?

IEEE-USA BACKS CENTER TO PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

WASHINGTON (8 October 2004) -- IEEE-USA has joined a coalition of engineering societies in supporting a bipartisan bill recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would establish a Center for Scientific and Technical Assessment (CTSA) to provide Congress with technological expertise.

In a letter sent on 6 October to Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) and Rep. Amo Houghton (R-N.Y.), IEEE-USA and its sister organizations wrote: "The sheer volume and complexity of the technological data facing federal legislators necessitate some mechanism for balanced, non-partisan and technologically informed analysis provided in a judicious manner."

As envisioned in H.R. 4670, the CTSA would operate under the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as overseen by the Technical Assessment Board, consisting of Members of Congress and the Comptroller General of the GAO.

IEEE-USA joined a coalition which included AAES, ASCE, ASHRAE, NSPE and the Optical Society of America.

The joint letter is posted at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/POLICY/2004/100704.pdf>.

The IEEE Cincinnati Section Executive Committee

Member Names and Phone Numbers

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